

# RURAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## PURPOSE

The Office of Rural Development exists to provide technical assistance in community and economic development to rural communities, and matching grants to organizations for economic development staff.

## AUTHORIZATION

Sections 620.155-165, RSMo. (1999)

## HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Rural Communities Economic Assistance Program (REAP) provides up to \$30,000 a year, for up to two years, for the purpose of hiring personnel to engage in economic development. A local match amounting to one-third of the grant (up to \$10,000) also must be expended each year in support of economic development. Any expense incurred in support of economic development qualifies as a match expenditure, including operational costs, training, travel, equipment, rent, contractual arrangements and start-up costs. In-kind expenditures also qualify. The match itself must come from the community, but does not have to come from one entity alone. Match dollars may be contributed by taxing districts or governments, civic organizations, banks, businesses, even individuals.

## ELIGIBLE AREAS

The population of communities receiving grant monies under the REAP must be under 15,000 people, based on the most recent census available. Communities in the following counties are ineligible, regardless of their size: Clay, Jackson, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applications under the Rural Communities Economic Assistance Program (REAP) may only be made by:

~~✓~~ A city council

~~✓~~ A county commission

~~✓~~ An industrial development authority (IDA) organized under RSMo. 349

The applicant is the sponsoring organization and is the entity to which funds are appropriated should a REAP grant be awarded.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications must be received no later than February 28, each calendar year.

The application and guidelines are available at [www.ecodev.state.mo.us/cd](http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/cd).

## FUNDING LIMITS

Statutes allow for the funding of up to 20 applications at up to \$30,000 each fiscal year. The exact number of REAP grants, as well as the exact amount of each REAP grant, depends on available funds.

## SPECIAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Only one proposal per community may be submitted.

## CONTACT

Office of Rural Development  
301 W. High Street, PO Box 118  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Phone: (573) 751-1208  
E-mail: [thackney@mail.state.mo.us](mailto:thackney@mail.state.mo.us)

## OTHER SERVICES OF DED

### DED REGIONAL OFFICES

St. Louis (314) 340-6823  
Kansas City (816) 889-2900  
Trenton (660) 359-5960  
Springfield (417) 888-4001

Moberly (660) 269-8802  
Dexter (573) 624-9950  
Houston (417) 967-5770  
Jefferson City (573) 751-0482

### **RELAY MISSOURI SERVICE**

Voice user calling a hearing/speech impaired user:  
(800) 735-2466.

Hearing/Speech impaired user calling a voice user:  
(800) 735-2966

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Community Development group offers over 10 different tax credit and grant programs to specifically meet the needs of not for profit organizations, community groups, and local government in areas such as infrastructure improvement, housing, violence prevention, and community facilities. For more information please call (573) 751-5981 or visit [www.ecodev.state.mo.us/ded/cd](http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/ded/cd).